AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the specification as originally filed from page 27, line 19, to page 28, line 3 as follows:

[0061] From the graph of FIG. 5(A), at predetermined intervals (e.g., at individual sampling points), the amount of change in difference obtained by subtracting the previous total light quantity value from the current total light quantity value is calculated. Thus obtained values are plotted in FIG. 5(B) whose ordinate and abscissa indicate the amount of change and time, respectively. In this case, a part exhibiting a negative peak seems to be a point where the absolute value of change in the total light quantity is the largest, i.e., a part corresponding to the vicinity of the center of an edge (outer edge) of the object S. Therefore, the amount of expansion/contraction of the actuator 43 can be fixed at that corresponding to this part.

Please amend the specification as originally filed at page 32, lines 14-25 as follows:

[0072] From the graph of FIG. 8(A), at predetermined intervals (e.g., at individual sampling points), the amount of change in difference obtained by subtracting the previous total light quantity value from the current total light quantity value is calculated. Thus obtained values are plotted in FIG. 8(B) whose ordinate and abscissa indicate the amount of change and time, respectively. In this case, a part exhibiting a positive peak seems to be a point where the absolute value of change in the total light quantity is the largest, i.e.,

a part corresponding to the vicinity of the center of an edge (outer edge) of the object S. Therefore, the tracking of the actuator 43 can be started after the differential peak shown in FIG. 8(B) stops changing after the total light quantity shown in FIG. 8(A) becomes the threshold T_2.

Please amend the Abstract of the Disclosure at page 41 of the originally filed specification as shown on the next page:

A laser processing method ~~which can efficiently perform laser processing while minimizing the deviation of the converging point of a laser beam in end parts of an object to be processed is provided.~~

~~This laser processing method comprises~~having a displacement acquiring step ~~(S06 and S07)~~ of acquiring a displacement between a point on the ~~line to cut~~cutting line and one end of the ~~line to cut~~cutting line in the object while irradiating the object with a second laser beam, converged by a lens, for measuring the displacement of a main surface of the object; and a position setting step ~~(S08 and S09)~~ of setting an initial position for holding the lens with respect to the main surface of the object according to the acquired displacement, and holding the lens at thus set initial position~~. After a modified region is formed in one end part of the line to cut by irradiation with a first laser beam for processing while holding the lens at the initial position, the lens is released from being held, and then the modified region is formed while adjusting the position of the lens~~.